

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] The invention provides a method for altering fiber development or properties of a fiber-producing plant, preferably a cotton plant, particularly a ~~Fibermex~~ FIBERMAX<sup>TM</sup> variety comprising the steps of providing cells of said plants with a chimeric gene comprising the following operably linked DNA fragments: a plant expressible promoter, preferably a subterranean clover stunt virus promoter; a coding region which when transcribed yields an RNA said RNA being capable of reducing the expression of an endogenous sucrose synthase gene, preferably an endogenous sucrose synthase gene expressed in fiber cells, preferably fiber initial cells; or capable of being translated into an active sucrose synthase protein; and a transcription termination and polyadenylation signal which functions in the plant cells.